PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

## THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

## Rural Sketches the Hawaiian Islands.

Leaving Lahaina for East Maui. Tourists visiting East Maui, have three modes of going on from Labaina-by steam or sail to Kalepolepo or Makena, by schooner to Kahului, and horseback "over the mountain." Each route has its recommendations, but the lover of the picturesque will choose the latter. Leaving Lahaina at six o'clock in the morning to avoid the hot sun, we rode over a level and sandy plain which skirts the foot of the mountains to Olualu, where the road ascends, but instead of leading over the mountains, it, more correctly speaking, runs around it. The mountains of West Maui have an elevation of 5000 feet, and the road ascends perhaps 1500 feet. It is passable for animals, but might be very much improved, with

no great expense. From the highest point of the road, where it begins to descend towards Wailuku, is one of the most picturesque scenes that the islands afford, and worthy of a painter's pencil. To enjoy it, we dismounted from our horses. Before us was the colossal mountain of HALEAKALA, stretching from the rocky shores of Koolau, to the prominent knoll that lies under Ulupalakua, a distance of thirty miles, and rising in one grand, symmetrical and noble mountain 10,000 feet above the sea. Not a cloud was on it, and its outline rested boldly against the sky, while its sides were clothed with forests, and varied colored verdure. At the left in the distance were Makawao and Haiku with their white houses and mill buildings, and at the extreme right the white chimney of the Makee mill could be observed. Beneath us lay the broad bay of Kalepolepo, with the schooners Nettie and Annie Laurie moving across it. A low sandy and desert isthmus stretches from the bay to the ocean at the left, where is the port of Kahului. Nowhere is there a scene of more grandeur than from this point. Haleakala, the famous House of the Sun, is a miracle of itself, which no traveler in search of the marvelous, should fail to visit. While we were admiring the view, a gentleman who had just returned from a visit to the mountain met us, and offered a narrative lof it, which we cheerfully insert, and which very

appropriately comes in here. We therefore leave our

notes of Waikapu and Wailuku for another week : A Trip to Haleakala. Our guides were procured, and all the necessary arrangements completed for the ascent of the moun-- tain. There are two routes to the summit, one from Ulupalakua, on the southwest side, and the other from Makawao, on the north side. We concluded to make the ascent from the latter place, as it is much the easiest road, and the finest view is obtained from the northern summit. On Friday morning at ten o'clock, our party, which was small, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. T., of San Francisco, and myself, left Makawao for the mountain, preceded by native guides with provisions, tent, bedding, &c. We were mounted on horses that have made the trip several times before, but were obliged to ride slow, as the road in some places was quite steep. We got along without any difficulty, reaching the spring at 1 o'clock, which is considered half way to the summit. There dismounting we partook of a luncheon, filled our water keg, and watered our horses, or such as would drink. Some of them refused, for we could not impress on them the fact that they would get no more water until the next afternoon when we should reach the same spring on our way home. We remained here about half an hour, and then remounting started for the summit. The mountain was growing more difficuit of ascent now, being steeper and very rocky; but we rode slowly, resting our horses often, and occasionally dispatching one of our guides to gather for us ohelo berries, which grow in abundance on the mountain sides. At three o'clock we reached the cave, which is some two miles below the summit, and about three thousand feet to ascend in going that distance. Our horses were not at first inclined to move, but by dint of whipping and spurring, and a good deal of moral suasion, we succeeded in starting them, and in one hour we stood on the summit of Haleakala, "The House of the Sun," 10,200 feet above the

level of the sea, and 4,000 feet above the clouds.

We have read many pages of history and graphic descriptions of eminent tourists; we have heard verbal descriptions of visits to Vesuvius and Etna, and other wonders of the world ; have dreamed of volcanoes and extinct craters ; but never in our flights of imagination, have we conceived of anything that could approximate to the scene now beheld from the brink of this crater. One view, not exceeding ten seconds, is sufficient compensation for all the difficulties attending the ascent. The crater is eight miles by twelve in diameter, some thirty two miles in circumference, and 2,500 feet in depth inside, an excavation sufficiently large to contain all the buildings of the city of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, and then have room for a score of "Central Parks." It looks like nothing in the world but just itself alone-one vast extinct furnace, partially filled with ashes and cinders, and decomposed lava. It admits of no similes or comparisons, it is so wild in its grandeur and so awfully sublime. It of course has been active at some period since the formation of the islands, but that action preceded the records of native traditions. It certainly is not within the recollection of man. It contains some twelve distinct cones or pyramids of einders and ashes, towering up 800 or 900 feet, like grim sentinels to guard its gloomy precincts from on. They do not appear to be more than fifty feet in height as seen from the summit. There is an outlet to the crater on the east side, through which the lava evidently found its way to the sea. It is hardly possible to imagine what the appearance of the crater must have been when it was an active sea of liquid lava. The cinders which are deposited all over its summit, give evidence that at some period the lava must have been thrown out over its highest peaks, but it is beyond the power of conception to form any idea of the appearance of a lake of fire twelve miles in diameter, thirty-two miles in circumference and twenty-five hundred feet deep. The freaks of nature are far beyond the comprehension of man, and some of them will not even admit of a fictitious explanation. There is very little vegetation in the crater, except high up on the sides.

Let us turn from our view of the crater and gaze out over the sea. Its vast and boundless extent, from where the foam crested breakers lash themselves in fury on the coast rocks, far out to the line marked by the distant horizon, is covered with a billowy sea of clouds, so compact, that not one wave of the ocean is visible. There they lay apparently motionless, thousands of feet below us. The vast black bars, the piled-un masses of burnished gold, the beds of softest saffron and richest purple lying surrounded with continually fluctuating discs of crimson, like one vast kaleidoscope, till the very sun itself was for moments unheeded in the gorgeousness its light had created; the appearance of storm, but the feeling of calm over all that tumultuous yet settled world of clouds, that had come floating silently and majestically together, so silently that one knew not from whence

they came or whither they went. The clouds seemed to rest themselves on the waves of the sea, and the great bright orb was now resting its rim on the clouds, and as it continued to sink behind them it had the appearance of a mighty ship of fire far out on the horizon. And the clouds gave the appearance of gigantic billows, tempest tossed and ready to engulph it. And they seemed to accomplish their purpose; for the sun is now lost to view, but the golden tint still remains half encircling the clouds, and looking like one continual blaze of chain lightning. The scene was truly grand and sublime, surpassing anything ever beheld or pictured in the imagination. It was the first sunset that we had ever seen from a point above the clouds, and were we to live a thouand years the scene would never pass from our mind. We remember belonging to a debating club, and this question came up for discussion : " Resolved-that the works of art are superior to those of nature." We espoused the side of art, but had not at that time visited the crater of Halenkala, or witnessed a sunset

thousands of feet above the clouds. This scenery, and in fact, nearly all that these islands can boast of, has been passed comparatively unheeded, and distinguished tourists barely make mention of it. "There is an inexpressible charm," says Campbell, "imparted to every place that has been celebrated by the historian, or immortalized by the poet, a charm that dignifies it in the eyes of the stranger and endears it to the heart of the native inhabitant." Of this romantic attraction these islands are almost destitute, although the scenery here has not its equal any where in the world. While every insignificant hill and turbed stream in classic Europe has been hallowed by the visitations of the muse, and contemplated with fond enthusiasm, our lefty mountains and beautiful valleys draw out no poetical feelings, and pass unheeded, because unsung. But we have wandered quite away from Haleakala and the sunset we had just witnessed. This vast expanse of clouds could be seen until nearly midnight, and was almost as gorgeous under the rays of the bright moon, as it was in the sunlight. We were completely surrounded by them, and the only thing else visible from this upper world, except the moon and stars, were the distant towering snow-capped summits of "Maunalou" and "Maunasea" on Hawaii, very distinctly seen in the dim twilight. But even they were soon lost to sight, and as the last flickering ray of the sun died away, and we were wrapt in the gloomy pall of night, we felt how thoroughly isolated we were, and alone in our little world above the clouds. The bleak wind usually sweeps in fitful gusts over these summits, but this night all nature was hushed. The wind had died away until there was not enough to blow the smoke from our camp-fire. The chirp of a cricket would have been a relief from the painful monotony of silence. But all animal life, if there ever had been any here, was in repose; and we were obliged to fall back upon our own re-sources for entertainment. We brought no chairs or seats of any kind with us, and so had to use sharp lava rocks instead. There was no wind and the atmosphere was very cold, with mercury below freezing point, which gave a stimulus to our ap-petites. Parties who intend to make the ascent of the mountain, should provide themselves bountifully with food. We sought the shelter of our tent about ten o'clock, and experienced

About five o'clock, we rose to witness the sunrise. The sky was perfectly clear, the whole castern heavens seemed to be ablaze. The clouds which enveloped the sea the evening before, had nearly all dispersed, and what few remained seemed to melt and vanish beneath the rays of the sun. A portion of them were driven up by the morning winds through the eastern passage of the crater, filling it to the very summit. It was but three minutes from the time the first cloud entered the crater until it was filled; and they disappeared as suddenly, and almost miraculously, they were not wasted over the summit, but seemed to vanish the moment they struck the western summit of the mountain.

After breakfast we started for a stroll along the summit of the crater. There is a plant growing on this mountain called the "silver sword," which is said to be found in no other country in the world. Although not botanists, we had a great desire to secure a specimen of this plant, first on account of its being so rare, and again, that we might have something tangible to prove the fert of having visited the "House of the Sun." After walking some . ar iles we discovered, some forty feet down in the crater, a large sword-plant, and with some difficulty succeeded in obtaining it, although it took an hour to get it up by

We had now seen all that could be seen-the ocean free from clouds and the ocean covered with clouds-the sun rise and the sun set-the scene by moonlight, and after the moon had set, the same scence by starlight. Our thirst for natural scenery was sated. There is no place in the world where the tourist can see so much of the majestic, grand and beautiful in so short a time, as here on the summit of Haleakala, At ten o'clock we had our horses saddled and started for home, where we arrived a little past one, somewhat weary but feeling fully compensated for the trip. The lady and gentleman who were with us came al nost purposely from San Francisco to visit the crater, and they consider themselves fully repaid for the whole journey. The kindness of the residents of Makawao and the hospitality extended by them to strangers, is perfectly genuine and free from affectation, and as far as the

> (To be Continued.) Business Cards.

experience of the writer extends, he has never in his travels met with its parallel.

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HONOLULU, HAWAHAN ISLANDS, APRIL 2, 1864.

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VOL. VIII. No. 40. WHOLE No. 410

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